

SENATE—Friday, October 27, 2000*(Legislative day of Friday, September 22, 2000)*

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, ultimate judge of our lives, in this moment of quiet reflection, we hold up our motives for Your review. We want to be totally honest with You and with ourselves about what really motivates our decisions, words, and actions. Sometimes we want You to approve of our motives that we have not reviewed in light of Your righteousness, justice, and love. There are times when we are driven by self-serving motives that contradict our better nature. Most serious of all, we confess that sometimes our motives are dominated by secondary loyalties: Party prejudice blurs our vision; combative competition prompts manipulative methods; negative attitudes foster strained relationships. Together we ask You to purify our motives and refine them until they are in congruity with Your will and Your vision for this Senate in these pressured pre-election days. When we put You first in our lives, You bring us together with a miracle of unity we could not achieve by human methods alone. We thank You in advance for performing this miracle. Dear God, You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JAMES M. INHOFE, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume debate on the tax legislation. Debate will take place throughout the morning with a vote expected in the early afternoon. The Senate is also expected to have a vote on the motion to proceed to the con-

ference report to accompany the D.C. appropriations bill, which contains the Commerce-Justice-State appropriations language. A short time agreement on the conference report is anticipated with a vote on adoption to occur today.

A vote on the continuing resolution will also be necessary prior to today's adjournment. Therefore, Senators can expect up to four votes during this afternoon's session of the Senate.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say through the Chair to my friend from Oklahoma, it would seem, based upon the complexity of the tax bill and the difficult problems that we have with the Commerce-State-Justice bill, that this debate is not going to take place in a couple of hours. I think it is going to take a long time. I have to give some assurance to the people on our side of the aisle that I would say it is going to be a long day. I very seriously doubt there will be votes early this day.

I suggest to my friends on the minority side, and I think it should have some resonance on the majority side, it is very likely we will be doing things here tomorrow. Remember, we have, among other things, a 24-hour CR and we have some of the most important measures we have had to deal with this entire Congress; that is, this \$250 billion tax bill, plus Commerce-State-Justice, which is about \$40 billion. A vast majority of the issues have not been debated on the Senate floor. These are "first impression" for most of us. So I think we are going to have to talk about them to some degree.

ENACTMENT OF CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS, HEALTH, TAX, AND MINIMUM WAGE PROVISIONS—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, we are beginning debate this morning on what is ostensibly the conference report of the Small Business Committee of which I have the pleasure to serve as the ranking member. Obviously, nobody has any illusions that what the debate on the floor of the Senate today is about is small business issues. This is the so-called tax bill that has been attached to the Small Business con-

ference report. But let me say a word, if I may, about the process by which how this package was made a part of the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2000.

Despite being named a conferee, and despite the inclusion of provisions that are important to small business, and despite the fact that this conference report contains the work of the Small Business Committee and which I devoted a considerable amount of time effort and energy to negotiating, I will be voting against the overall conference report before us today.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I wonder if the Senator from Massachusetts will yield for a question at the beginning?

Mr. KERRY. I am happy to yield.

Mr. KERREY. There are an awful lot of people wondering where is the chairman of the Finance Committee, the ranking member of the Finance Committee. We are going to be taking up a tax bill and a Medicare/Medicaid bill. Why don't we see Chairman ROTH and ranking member MOYNIHAN down here managing this bill? Why is it a Small Business Committee that has the responsibility for a piece of legislation dealing with targeted tax credits and Medicare relief?

Mr. KERRY. My good friend from Nebraska asked a very important question. Let me, in defense of the Senator from New York, say that Senator MOYNIHAN will be here soon. By agreement, he is going to be comanaging this report because of the tax provisions in this bill.

Mr. KERREY. This is a Small Business piece of legislation. This bill references small business. This is not a Finance Committee bill. The answer is, it is not a Finance Committee bill.

Didn't the majority do the legislative equivalent of stealth molasses here? Didn't they take another piece of legislation, hollow it out, and stuff in it targeted tax cuts that their Presidential candidate has been opposing for the last 90 days, criticizing the Vice President, saying Washington, DC, should not decide, we should not be deciding in Washington, DC, who gets a tax cut? That is what I have been hearing over and over.

I ask my friend from Massachusetts, first of all, is it correct that they stuffed a tax bill and they have stuffed a health care bill inside of some other bill that they hollowed out, that has not gone through the normal process, and that the tax provision itself seems to violate what their Presidential candidate wants to do? Basically, it seems